We claim:-

1. A pressure sensitive adhesive comprising an aqueous dispersion of a polymer, said dispersion comprising, besides the polymer, silicon compounds selected from polymeric silicates, water-soluble alkali metal silicates (waterglass), silanes, and silicones obtainable from the silanes by condensation.

2. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein said silicon compounds are aqueous solutions of alkali metal silicates (waterglass).

3. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein said silicon compounds are silanes having alkoxy groups which can be condensed to silicones.

4. An adhesive as claimed in claim 3, wherein the silanes contain, besides the alkoxy groups, hydrophilic groups selected from hydroxyl, epoxy, carboxyl, mercapto, and amino groups.

5. An adhesive as claimed in claim 4, wherein said hydrophilic groups are amino groups.

6. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, containing from 0.001 to 10 parts by weight of silicon compounds per 100 parts by weight of the polymer dispersed in said dispersion.

7. Adhesive as claimed in claim 1, obtainable by dispersing the silicon compounds in the aqueous dispersion of the polymer.

8. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, obtainable by dispersing the silicon compounds in water (predispersing) and then adding the predispersed silicon compounds to the aqueous dispersion of the polymer.

9. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the silicon compounds are in the form of discrete particles having a weight-average diameter of from 5 to 200 nanometers.

10. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polymer is composed of at least 40% by weight of principal monomers selected from C1 to C20 alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl esters of carboxylic acids containing up to 20 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics having up to 20 carbon atoms, ethylenically unsaturated nitriles, vinyl halides, vinyl ethers of alcohols containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

aliphatic hydrocarbons having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms and two double bonds, or mixtures of these monomers

11. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer is composed of at least 40% by weight of C1 to C20 alkyl (meth)acrylates.

12. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polymer is an emulsion polymer.

13. An adhesive as claimed in claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature of said polymer is from –60 to 0°C.

14. A self-adhesive article, especially a label, adhesive tape or sheet, obtainable using an aqueous dispersion as set forth in claim 1 as a pressure sensitive adhesive.